AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the heading immediately after paragraph [0001] as follows:

BACKGROUND ~~OF THE INEVNTION~~

Please amend the heading immediately before paragraph [0002] as follows:

Field of the ~~Invention~~ Technology

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The ~~present invention~~ exemplary embodiment described herein relates to a switching apparatus for controlling the interconnection among a plurality of devices. More particularly, the ~~present invention~~ exemplary embodiment relates to a satellite antenna switching apparatus, as installed between a converter that performs a predetermined conversion operation on a signal received by a satellite antenna and a receiver that exchanges signals with the converter, for controlling the interconnection between such a converter and such a receiver on a one-to-many or many-to-many basis.

Please amend the heading immediately before paragraph [0010] as follows:

SUMMARY ~~OF THE INVENTION~~

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] ~~An object~~ A feature of the ~~present invention~~ exemplary embodiment presented herein is to provide a switching apparatus, and in particular a satellite antenna switching apparatus, that does not cause attenuation of exchanged signals even when used in a cascade connection of a plurality of stages of switch boxes.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] To achieve the above ~~object~~ feature, according to ~~the present invention~~ an exemplary embodiment~~,~~ a switching apparatus, in particular a satellite antenna switching apparatus, is provided with: a first port (LNB port) to which a first device (LNB) is connected; a second port (receiver port) to which a second device (receiver) that exchanges a signal with the first device is connected; a third port (cascade port) to which another switching apparatus is cascade-connected; and an impedance circuit that functions as a means for detecting the signal exchanged between the first and second devices. Here, the impedance circuit provides an impedance according to the connection state of the third port, and is electrically disconnected from the signal path when the other switching apparatus is cascade-connected to the third port.

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] This and other ~~objects and~~ features of ~~the~~ an ~~present invention~~ exemplary embodiment will become clear from the following description, taken in conjunction with the preferred embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figs. 1A and 1B are diagrams showing examples of how a switch box embodying ~~the~~an ~~invention~~ exemplary embodiment is installed;

Fig. 2 is a circuit diagram showing the configuration of a principal portion of the switch boxes 11 and 12;

Figs. 3A and 3B are equivalent circuit diagrams of the switch boxes 11 and 12 as considered on an alternating-current basis;

Fig. 4 is a circuit diagram showing the configuration of a principal portion of a conventional switch box; and

Figs. 5A and 5B are equivalent circuit diagrams of a conventional switch box as considered on an alternating-current basis.

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] Figs. 1A and 1B are diagrams showing how a switch box embodying ~~the~~ an ~~present invention~~ exemplary invention is installed. In Fig. 1A, a switch box 11 is provided with

LNB ports LP1a to LP1c to which are connected LNBs 31a to 31c that perform a predetermined conversion operation on signals received by satellite antennas (not illustrated); and receiver ports RP1a to RP1d to which are connected receivers 21a to 21d that exchange signals with the LNBs 31a to 31c, and to which direct-current voltages are applied from those receivers 21a to 21d. Thus, this configuration permits the interconnection among LNBs and receivers to be controlled in such a way that a maximum of three LNBs can be shared among a maximum of four receivers.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] The exemplary embodiment described above deals with a case where ~~the present~~ an example ~~invention~~ embodiment is applied to a satellite antenna switching apparatus. It should be understood, however, that the present invention finds wide application in switching apparatuses in general, i.e., in any other types of switching apparatuses than the one specifically discussed above, that control the interconnection among a plurality of devices.